

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that plural documents sets can be sent by a plurality of transmission processes to the same recipient with only a one time designation of the recipient. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found in at least paragraphs 0007, 0045, 0064-0065 and 0073 and in FIG. 4 of the present application. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted no new matter has been added to the present application by this amendment.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuwahara et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,894,799, as set forth on pages 2-7 of the office action dated March 17, 2008.

In regards to independent claim 1, the Examiner asserted Kuwahara et al disclose an image reading apparatus, reading means, recipient designating means and "transmitting means (automatic dialing unit 2, col. 3, lines 16-17 with NCU 3) for transmitting the image data read by said reading means to the recipient designated by said recipient designating means, wherein said transmitting means serially sends plural image data (plurality of image data, col. 3, lines 47-48) corresponding to plural document sets read by said reading means to the same recipient designated by said recipient designating means by a plurality of transmission processes in a serial transmission mode (real-time transmission where each of the pages of the documents (i.e., plural image data) are scanned and immediately delivered to a recipient, see at least col. 1, lines 52-54) of serially sending plural image data to be transmitted by one transmission process (If a user sets N document on a feeder or manually feeds N documents, real-time transmission

immediately sends each page. This is a serial mode of transmission where each page is immediately sent)".

Kuwahara et al. is directed to a facsimile machine (F) that is capable of performing a confidential transmission, broadcast transmission, etc. by batch transmission. Kuwahara et al. discloses that "[t]he transmission function includes a delayed transmission function for temporarily storing single image data, which is scanned by the scanner 11, in the image memory 5 and then sending it to a recipient at a specified time, and a batch transmission function for sequentially accumulating a plurality of image data, which is scanned by the scanner 11 respectively, into the memory box 5a and simultaneously sending these data to one or more recipients at a predetermined time" (see col. 3, lines 43-51 of Kuwahara et al.). The batch transmission function of Kuwahara et al. is adapted to collectively store a plurality of image data and thereafter simultaneously transmit the plurality of image data at a predetermined time by one transmission process.

Amended claim 1 is directed to an image reading apparatus so configured as to render image data transmittable to a device via a predetermined network, including, inter alia, "reading means for reading an image of a document to generate image data corresponding to a single document set and to generate plural image data corresponding to plural document sets; recipient designating means for designating a recipient to which the image data read by said reading means is sent via the network in response to a manipulation by a user; and transmitting means for transmitting the image data read by said reading means to the recipient designated by said recipient designating means, wherein said transmitting means serially sends plural image data corresponding to plural document sets read by said reading means to the same recipient upon a one time

designation of the recipient by said recipient designating means by a plurality of transmission processes in a serial transmission mode of serially sending plural image data corresponding to plural document sets if a single document set is a group of documents to be transmitted by one transmission process".

According to amended claim 1, after the recipient which receives image data transmitted in accordance with a user's operation is designated upon a one time designation, plural image data corresponding to plural read documents are created, the created image data are transmitted to the designated recipient, and the reading and transmission processes are sequentially repeated with respect to plural documents, and then plural image data read out from a plurality of documents are transmitted to the same designated recipient serially in a serial transmission mode of serially sending plural image data corresponding to plural document sets if a single document set is a group of documents to be transmitted by one transmission process. Consequently, a user can transmit image data corresponding to plural documents serially to the same recipient by setting the recipient only once, so that an operability of a user in a serial job operation of transmitting a plurality of documents can be improved. In other words, since a user can transmit plural image data of plural documents sequentially by performing setting of a recipient only once, and repeating setting of documents and pressing of a start key, the apparatus of amended claim 1 can improve a user's operability in serial job operation of transmitting a plurality of documents.

It is to be appreciated that the serial transmission mode of the claim 1 is different than the individual transmission mode of the present application, e.g., a

conventional facsimile transmission. For a better understanding of the two modes, firstly, general procedures of a conventional facsimile transmission will be described below:

1. A user sets one document (including plural sheets) on a feeder.
2. The user sets a recipient.
3. If the user presses a transmission button (e.g., a start button), the plural sheets are scanned by one reading process. Plural scanned image data are immediately sent by one transmission process to the recipient set in step 1. After the transmission is completed, the recipient is reset.

As described above, in the general procedures of the conventional facsimile transmission, a recipient is reset after the transmission process is terminated, in view of that a recipient is newly set in the next transmission, as opposed to the serial transmission mode where the recipient is set once.

Here, since Kuwahara et al. discloses that "... if a facsimile user wants to send a plurality of data to a certain recipient by batch transmission, and also wants to apply one of the functions (1) to (5), a conventional facsimile cannot execute both of them. For instance, the batch transmission and confidential transmission cannot be executable at the same time. In this case, a plurality of image data to be transmitted to a recipient is not accumulated in a memory for batch transmission; instead, each image data is immediately sent to the recipient (real time transmission) conventionally or stored for a delayed transmission." (see column 1, lines 44-54 of Kuwahara et al.), the real time transmission taught in Kuwahara et al. is a mode for immediately transmitting plural image data to a recipient, akin to the individual transmission mode of the present application.

Further, in regards to the real-time transmission mode, the Examiner stated in the outstanding Office Action that "Kuwahara et al. also clearly teaches real-time transmission where each page of the documents (i.e. plural image data) are scanned and immediately delivered to a recipient ... If a user sets N documents on a feeder or manually feeds N documents, real-time transmission immediately sends each page." (page 2, section 3, lower portion of the Final Office Action dated March 17, 2008). In accordance with this statement, in the real-time transmission mode disclosed in Kuwahara et al., N documents set on the feeder is scanned by one reading process, and plural image data corresponding to the scanned N documents are sent to a recipient by one transmission process as one document. Therefore, Kuwahara et al. does not disclose or suggest the serial transmission of plural image data, which are read from plural documents by reading means, by plural transmission processes to the same recipient designated by the recipient designating means. For example, if two pages of document A, four pages of document B, and three pages of documents C are sent as three documents, the transmission procedures in the real-time transmission mode according to the Kuwahara et al. are as described herebelow:

1. A user sets two pages of document A, four pages of document B, and three pages of documents C on a feeder as a single document.
2. The user sets a recipient.
3. If the user presses a transmission button (e.g., a start button), two pages of document A, four pages of document B, and three pages of document C, in other words, ten pages of sheets are scanned by one reading process. The image data of

scanned ten pages are immediately sent by one transmission process to the recipient set in step 1. After the transmission is completed, the recipient is reset.

In the procedures described above, the recipient is set by the user only one time, but three documents are sent as a single document by one transmission process. The three documents are not sent by three transmission processes, in another words, the three documents are not sent serially one after another.

Further, when plural documents are sent individually, the transmission procedures in the real-time transmission mode according to Kuwahara et al. are as follows:

1. A user sets two pages of document A on a feeder as a single document.
2. The user sets a recipient.
3. If the user presses a transmission button (e.g., a start button), two pages of document A are scanned by one reading process. The image data of the scanned two pages are immediately sent by one transmission process to the recipient set in step 2. After the transmission is completed, the recipient is reset.
4. The user sets four pages of document B on a feeder as a single document.
5. The user sets the recipient which is the same as that set in step 2 again.
6. If the user presses a transmission button (e.g., a start button), four pages of document B, in other words, four pages of sheets are scanned by one reading process. The image data of the scanned four pages are sent immediately by one transmission process to the recipient set in step 5. After the transmission is completed, the recipient is reset.

7. The user sets three pages of document C on a feeder as a single document.

8. The user sets the recipient which is the same as that set in step 2 again.

9. If the user presses a transmission button (e.g., a start button), three pages of document C, in other words, three pages of sheets are scanned by one reading process. The image data of the scanned three pages are sent immediately by one transmission process to the recipient set in step 8. After the transmission is completed, the recipient is reset.

In the procedures described above, three documents are individually sent by three transmission process. Even though the recipient is the same, the user needs to set the recipient three times.

Thus, Kuwahara et al. does not disclose or teach the features of the characterizing part of amended claim 1, which is "said transmitting means serially sends plural image data corresponding to plural document sets read by said reading means to the same recipient upon a one time designation of the recipient by said recipient designating means by a plurality of transmission processes in a serial transmission mode of serially sending plural image data corresponding to plural document sets if a single document set is a group of documents to be transmitted by one transmission process."

Further, the Examiner points out that the delay transmission function of Kuwahara et al. corresponds to the individual transmission mode of claim 2. However, since Kuwahara et al. discloses that "[t]he transmission function includes a delayed transmission function for temporarily storing single image data, which is scanned by the

scanner 11, in the image memory 5 and then sending it to a recipient at a specified time...” (see column 3, lines 43-46 of Kuwahara et al.), it is clear that the delayed transmission function of Kuwahara et al. is a mode for storing image data read from a document and transmitting the image data at a specified time.

On the other hand, the individual transmission mode according to claim 2 is a mode for individually transmitting one image data read from one document, and the recipient designating means designates the recipient to which the image data is sent via the network in response to a manipulation by the user with respect to each image data read by the reading means, and the transmitting means individually sends the each image data read by the reading means to the recipient designated by the recipient designating means.

Thus, the individual transmission mode according to claim 2 is not the delayed transmission mode of Kuwahara et al., and it is similar to the real-time transmission mode described above. Accordingly, the serial transmission mode of claim 1 which is different from the individual transmission mode does not correspond to the real-time transmission mode of Kuwahara et al. In view of this, it is clear that Kuwahara et al. does not disclose or suggest the serial transmission mode of claim 1.

Furthermore, according to claim 1 with the above-described features, after the recipient is designated which receives image data sent in accordance with a user's manipulation, plural image data corresponding to plural read documents are created, and the created image data are sent to the designated recipient, and reading and transmission process are sequentially repeated with respect to plural documents, and then plural image data read out from plural documents are sent to the same designated recipient serially by

the serial transmission mode of serially sending plural image data corresponding to plural documents sets if a single document set is a group of documents to be sent by one transmission process. Consequently, a user can transmit image data corresponding to plural documents serially to the same recipient by setting the recipient only once, so that an operability of a user in a serial job operation of transmitting plural documents can be improved. Therefore, it can be said that claim 1 has a new effect which is not disclosed in the Kuwahara et al. reference.

Specifically describing the effect of the above, when two pages of document A, four pages of document B, and three pages of document C are sent as three documents, the transmission procedures in the serial transmission mode of claim 1 are as follows:

1. A user sets two pages of document A on a feeder as one document.
2. The user sets a recipient.
3. If the user presses a transmission button (e.g., a start button), two pages of document A, in other words, two pages of sheets are sent immediately by one transmission process to the recipient set in step 2.
4. The user sets four pages of document B on a feeder as one document.
5. If the user presses the transmission button (e.g., a start button), four pages of document B, in other words, four pages of sheets are sent immediately by one transmission process to the recipient set in step 2.
6. The user sets three pages of document C on a feeder as one document.

7. If the user presses the transmission button (e.g., start button), three pages of document C, in other words, three pages of sheets are sent immediately by one transmission process to the recipient set in step 2.

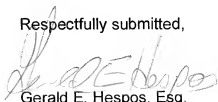
As described above, in claim 1, since a user can transmit plural image data of plural of documents sequentially by performing setting of a recipient only once, and repeating setting of documents and pressing of a start key, the features of claim 1 has a new effect of improving a user's operability in a serial job operation of transmitting plural documents.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted claim 1 is patentable distinct over Kuwahara et al. and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-9 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended claim 1 and are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above in regards to claim 1.

In view of the preceding remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicants' attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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